



Fact Sheet

Sauget Area 1 Sampling
Sauget, IL
August, 1999

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Background and History

The Sauget Area 1 and 2 Sites are located near the villages of Sauget and Cahokia in St. Clair County, Illinois. Each site contains multiple spots where industrial wastes were dumped dating back to the 1930s.

Sauget Area 1 is comprised of six waste sites (known as "source" areas), covering about 40 acres. Most of the site lies between Illinois Route 3 and Falling Springs Road. Area 1 also includes about 4 miles of contaminated sediments in Dead Creek.

The site is contaminated with a number of chemicals, including **polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)**, **dioxins**, and a number of metals (for words in bold, see glossary on the back of this page).

Present Status

Currently, EPA is working with Solutia under an Administrative Order by Consent (AOC) to conduct environmental sampling. To date, Solutia is the only Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) that has agreed to conduct work. The Sampling is scheduled to begin in early September, and should be done by Spring, 2000. The sampling includes:

- soil samples, from source and residential areas
- ground water
- air
- surface water, sediments, and biological samples (fish, crayfish, water plants) in Dead Creek

The AOC also requires Solutia to write both an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) and Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS). The purpose of the EE/CA and RI/FS is to determine the nature and extent of the contamination, as well as possible cleanup solutions. The project will also generate data for a human health and environmental risk assessment. It is unlikely there will be any full-scale cleanup actions until 2001.

A Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) has been awarded for the site. TAG grants are given at a site so that interested citizens can hire independent contractors to help interpret data and review site documents. The point of contact for the TAG grant is Mike Kohlenberger, (618) 337-7602.

Locations of Available Information

An **information repository** has been established for the sites. An information repository is a collection of information (technical reports, fact sheets, engineering studies, etc.) about the site that citizens can review to keep informed about Superfund cleanups. Information regarding the Sauget 1 and 2 sites will be kept at:

Cahokia Public Library
140 Cahokia Avenue
Cahokia, IL 62206
phone: 332-1491

For additional information contact:

Gordie Blum
U.S. EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. EPA 77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 353-8501 or 1-800-621-8431
blum.gordon@epa.gov

Glossary

Dioxins- A generic name for a group of 210 related chemicals. Dioxins can be unwanted byproducts of certain pesticide manufacturing, combustion of waste materials or plastic, or reactions involving chlorine and organic chemicals.

Laboratory experiments have shown that dioxins cause cancer in animals. These tests have also shown other damaging effects to animals in the skin, thyroid gland, liver, and unborn offspring. Based on this testing, dioxins are a suspected cause of cancer in humans.

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)-

A family of organic compounds used since 1926 in electric transformers as insulators and coolants, in lubricants, carbonless copy paper, adhesives, and caulking compounds. PCBs are extremely persistent in the environment. PCBs can be stored in the fatty tissues of humans and animals. EPA banned the use of PCBs, with limited exceptions, in 1976. In general, PCBs are not as toxic in high short-term doses as some other chemicals, although severe long term exposure can cause liver damage. PCBs have also been found to cause cancer in laboratory animals.